

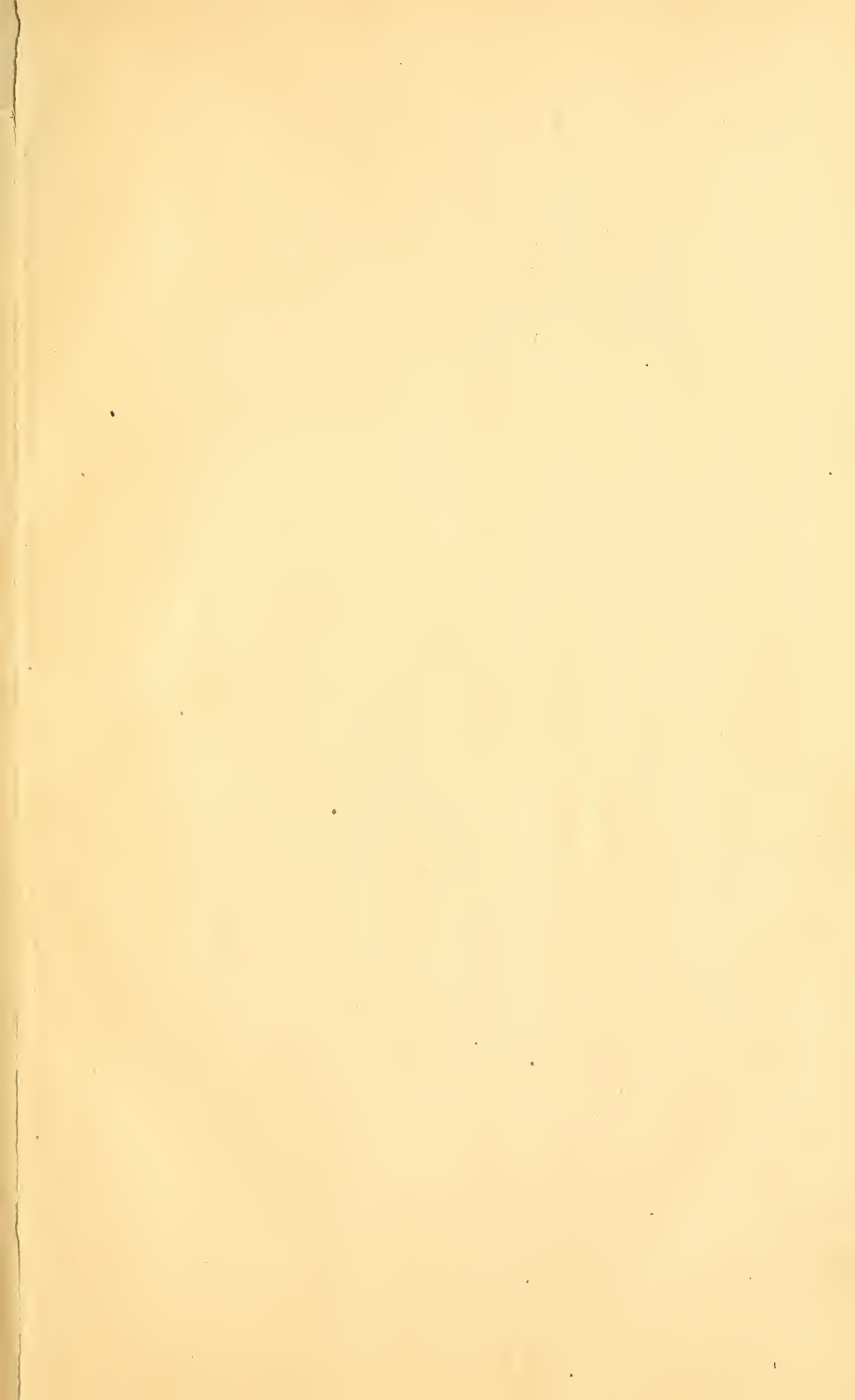
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# SPEECH OF MR. LINCOLN,

*A Whig Representative in Congress from Massachusetts,*

IN REPLY TO MR. OGLE,

UPON THE PROPOSITION OF THE LATTER TO STRIKE OUT OF THE

## GENERAL APPROPRIATION BILL,

A SMALL ITEM

FOR ALTERATIONS AND REPAIRS OF THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE, &c.

*House of Representatives, April 16, 1840.*

When Mr. Lincoln obtained the floor, it was late in the evening, and, perceiving that he was fatigued by the long sitting, it was proposed to adjourn the debate to the following day, but Mr. L. preferred saying at once what he had to say. He began by replying to some remarks of Mr. Ogle incidental to the main debate, taking occasion, in the course of his reply, to state certain particulars in which his remarks on a former day had been mis-stated, probably because misunderstood, by the reporter of the *Globe* newspaper. After disposing of this preliminary matter, Mr. L. proceeded to the main subject before the Committee of the Whole upon which he spoke as follows:

The member from Pennsylvania (said Mr. Lincoln) has insisted that the tendency of my remarks was to justify the purchase of extravagant articles of furniture for the President's house. I repeat that I attempted no such justification, for I had neither seen many of the exceptionable articles nor inquired into their price. The argument, so far as it went, was against that false standard of economy which measures the value of a thing by its cost, and decides upon its fitness with no reference whatever to the place or occasion for its use. The selection of furniture for such an establishment is matter of taste, about which minds may well differ; and I said that while some would consider as most appropriate the rich and showy, others would prefer the plain and simple in fashion; but that, for a mansion so spacious and so magnificent as that which the nation had provided for the residence of the Chief Magistrate, the furniture, so far as I had seen, was neither too good nor too abundant. In this, I am not aware that I am alone among the Whigs, although I may not indeed be so happy as to meet the approving voice of all. But does such a difference imply dereliction of principle any where? The member suggests that my manner of life and habits of thinking may have given me a taste for articles of extravagance. What does he know of my habits of life? Sir, I can tell him they have been as honorably laborious, and as plainly republican, at least, as his own. Be it from necessity or choice, I am in no wise ignorant of those duties and offices which become the humblest station. I have been taught to toil as faithfully, and to direct my thoughts as uprightly, as the least proud one here. One lesson more have I learned, that, in reference to the conduct of others, the tongue is an unruly organ, which an evil spirit may indulge, but which candor and a love of truth should at all times restrain.

Mr. Chairman, it can only be necessary to review the remarks of the member to show the absurdity of their intended application. While he condemns the extravagance of the furniture, he is silent in respect to the appropriations through which it was procured. *These appropriations are the grants of legislation by the representatives of the people.* Whose was the work of constructing the costly mansion, and to what end was it reared? More than forty years have now elapsed since the building was erected, at the charge of more than half a million of dollars to the nation, and from that time to the present it has been occupied in the manner in which it is now used. Congress, through all this intervening period, have voted the sums for furnishing the house, as they had previously done for its construction. If it were intended that the occupant should himself provide the furniture, wherefore these grants? They commenced before the house was first taken possession of by the elder Adams, and the occasions for further supplies have since been voluntarily anticipated upon every succession to the Presidency. Besides, the spacious halls and lofty ceilings of such a mansion require much which would be suited to no other residence. The reasonableness of compelling a President elect

to an outlay exceeding his annual salary in the purchase of furniture for a house, the occupancy of which he has not the election to refuse, and the tenancy of which, at the expiration of every four years, is at the disposal of the popular voice, with the certainty of the sacrifice upon the cost of the property in the attempt to dispose of it for any other place or use, cannot gravely be contended for. The credit of the country itself would suffer by such an arrangement; for either the officer, by the absorption of his salary in the purchase of suitable and sufficient furniture for the house, would be deprived of the appointed means for his proper support in the office, or, by the neglect of such provision, would exhibit to the world, in his public station, the discreditable contrast of magnificent apartments meanly destitute or scantily furnished with whatever was appropriate to their occupation. It is a great mistake to suppose that these accommodations are for the personal relief, or to the private advantage of the President. He is made by them, and by the amplitude of his salary; emphatically the *host* of the nation. His guests are the guests of the people. The Executive mansion is the place for their reception. This house of the people is the fitting position in which, in the person of their Chief Magistrate, they receive from the representatives of other people the homage due to the sovereignty of this great Republic. Here ambassadors and ministers, the accredited messengers from the proudest and most powerful, the enlightened and most refined of the kingdoms of the earth, are received and entertained in the name of the hospitality of the nation! And here, too, the courtesies of official station are exchanged between the high functionaries of the Government, and extended to all classes of the citizens. The house, it is well known, is open to all, and is daily visited by many. Is it too much, then, that the place and its appendages are beyond the requirements of private station? I venture the assertion, that so far as the personal interest of the President is concerned, (I speak not of the present incumbent, but of whoever has been or may be in the office,) it would be preferable, far preferable, to him to occupy, at his own cost, a smaller and more humble dwelling, than to submit to the inconveniences and heavy exactions which his required residence in the Executive mansion necessarily imposes. Sure I am that, in a pecuniary point of view, it would be much better for any incumbent in the office to receive ten thousand dollars, and furnish his own habitation, than with twenty-five thousand to maintain the style of living and public hospitality which every President in succession has deemed but in conformity with the design, as well as the liberality of present provisions.

But the member complains of it as a monstrous abuse, that the President of the United States, in addition to his salary, and the use of a furnished house, should have the grounds about the latter kept in order at the public expense. He says the President ought to furnish his own house and employ his own gardener, as his salary is amply sufficient. I have only to add to what I have before said on this subject, that such has not been the judgment or the pleasure of the people. For forty years, their representatives sitting in these halls, without division in sentiment or vote, have provided the house, supplied the furniture, directed the enclosure and improvement of the grounds, and required their occupation by the Chief Magistrate. The salary may be sufficient for the officer. On this point I take no issue with the member. So may the per diem of eight dollars be ample compensation for a representative in Congress. But does the scrupulous member himself receive nothing more? I demand of him to say if eight dollars a day is not abundant recompense for the value of his labors here; and yet, does he keep his hands clean from all the perquisites of place? Has he no Government stationery in his room? no Congressional penknife of costly extravagance at this very moment in his pocket? Has he never ordered to his lodgings the beautiful "embossed and lace-edged note paper" and "fancy sealing wax," for the use of any of his family, or received to his own use a distributive share of the "spoils," in costly editions of books printed at the expense of the Treasury? Sir, let me not be misunderstood. I do not condemn him in this, for the legislation of the House allows it. But I say he receives these things by a more questionable authority than does the President of the United States the accommodations which are made the burden of his complaint. When, therefore, the member goes to his constituents and to mine with the objections that the Chief Magistrate of the nation is (in his most courteous



language) robbing and cheating the people in receiving, under an appropriation of Congress, the use of a furnished house and the care of a garden, in addition to his salary, let him, at the same time, honestly admit, that to his own pay he adds, at the public charge, perquisites of considerable value, and which a colleague of his, [Mr. PETRIKEN,] on another occasion, pronounced, although I think by gross exaggeration, equal in amount to the per diem. Sir, the President is much rather to be justified in the use of his furnished lodgings than the member in the enjoyment of his perquisites; for the latter may be refused, while the former, consistently with the existing arrangements of the Government, cannot be declined.

I regret, Mr. Chairman, that it is necessary for me to pursue this ungrateful subject further. I fear, in doing it, I shall exhaust the patience of the committee. But the member cavils with me for sustaining the appropriation for the salary of the gardener at the President's square. In my remarks, on a former day, to which he excepts, I said that this had been a usual appropriation for many years, and that I saw no new reason, at this time, for its discontinuance. I have now in my hand a certificate from the Commissioner of the Public Buildings, showing that the gardener, the very same individual, with the same character of service, and at the same rate of compensation, has been in the employ of the Government for the continuous period of fifteen years, having been first engaged in 1825. I will read the certificate here, as notice that I shall offer it on the trial of the issue between the member and myself before my constituents:

"OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

"It appears from the books of this office that John Ousley was appointed gardener at the President's square on the 1st of August, 1825, at a regular salary of four hundred and fifty dollars per annum for his services. He has received that salary quarterly, up to the 31st December, 1839, and is at this time the gardener at the President's square.

W. NOLAND."

In respect to the grounds about the President's house, they, in common with those around the Capitol, are, at all times, open to the public. They have been laid out and ornamented at the public charge, and if not now cared for by Congress, will soon become a neglected and unightly waste. The President has no motive to the expense of their improvement. Like the spacious walks and cultivated borders of the beautiful enclosure within which we are here situated, they are for the enjoyment of the people, and in the frequency of resort to them, and the freedom with which they are used, it is daily seen how little they are regarded as private. They are, indeed, accessible to all, and I would recommend to the member himself, at some pleasant eventide, to repair to this quiet retreat, and indulge in the meditation to which it invites.

Again: It is made a heinous offence in me that, in addition to all which is now within and about the House, I gave notice that the committee of which I am a member would propose, at the present session, a small appropriation for one of the rooms most frequently in use, and which is now entirely destitute of furniture. The bill which contains that appropriation has since been reported from the committee, and gives a few hundred dollars for the purchase of plain furniture, of American manufacture, for the ante-room to the President's parlor. The member objects that this is altogether unnecessary, and the reason he assigns for this opinion is as singular as the objection is extraordinary in itself. "In the ante-rooms of princes," says the member, "visitors are kept standing until they are admitted to an audience." When I addressed this committee, on a former day, I described this room as the apartment into which visitors, whether for ceremony or business, were shown previous to their introduction to the President. Here they dispose of their over garments, in all weather and seasons, and wait, if need be, the previous engagements of the President; and in this room there is not the accommodation of a mirror, a table, or a chair. Whatever may be the forms observed in the courts of Europe, or the habit of princes in the treatment of their subjects—of which I profess to be but poorly advised—it strikes me as hardly becoming that they should be quoted in Republican America, as fit rules to be adopted for the regulation of intercourse between free, independent, enlightened citizens, and their elective officers. The courts of Europe, forsooth! And such is the authority relied on by this Whig from Pennsylvania for denying a chair to his constituents and mine, in

the very house provided by the people for their own honor, and in excuse for denouncing me for seeking to make provision for their more suitable accommodation. Because the princes of Europe keep their vassals in servile waiting upon their pleasure, is that a reason why a Republican citizen of the United States should lack the comfort of a seat, while the President may be called from his table or his study to offer him those courtesies to which every freeman is here entitled? It is not thus my Democracy teaches. The free citizens of a Republic are themselves sovereigns, and the measure of their right and the respect which is their due are not to be looked for in the conventional etiquette of courts, nor are they the boon of princes. If the constituents of the member shall visit Washington, and desire an introduction to the Chief Magistrate, and he dare trust himself to accompany them to the "White House," I venture to say he will be made sensible to the deficiency which the committee propose to supply; and whatever may be his own views of subserviency to the customs of Europe, the indignant expression of reproof which he would hear from those to whom he should offer such an excuse for any want they might witness, would bring conviction to his mind that this was not the country of princes. What! himself a Whig, and propose a conformity to the manners and customs of aristocratic power—aping the fashions of a royal court? Himself professing to be a Republican, and condemn that which respect for a Republican people demands? Sir, I repeat, this is a poor concern to be made the occasion of so much clamor. It hardly becomes the member, for such cause, to read homilies upon political consistency to others. The inducement to his gratuitous labors may be found in the narrowness of his own views, rather than in a default of fidelity elsewhere. He mistakes a small matter of mere business expediency for a great question of principle. Mr. Chairman, lest, from the vehemence of his denunciation, any should be led to suppose an abandonment of party by me, I will even volunteer a confession of faith; and I here profess, testify, and declare, that I am no less a Whig than if I had never seen the Executive mansion; ay, that I am as much to be confided in for steadfast opposition to the present Administration as though, like the member, I had the new-born zeal of a convert from Jacksonism! Sir, I am as thoroughly opposed to Mr. Van Buren as the member was devoted, at one time, to his "illustrious predecessor!" I regard the policy and leading measures of the Administration as hostile to the best interests of the people, and destructive of the prosperity of the country; and, as such, from the first, I have been their uncompromising opponent, and to the utmost of my power shall continue to resist them. But in this I have not, nor shall I demean myself, by indulging in hard names and coarse invectives against the high officers of Government.

Mr. Chairman, I might now rest. It is not my intention to enter into any defence of the propriety of the particular appropriations which, from time to time, have been made for the accommodation of the Chief Magistrate of the nation. Much less would I attempt a vindication of the prodigal expenditures of the present Administration. They have been extravagant and wasteful enough, in all conscience, and furnish an exhaustless theme for the severest animadversion. When I had the honor of addressing the committee, on a former day, I distinctly presented, in connection with the subject now under discussion, some of the most crying abuses, in the construction of the public edifices in this city, the deceptive estimates, and irresponsible profligate management of those who had direction of the work, and, as I deemed, the wanton and lawless diversion of funds by the Executive, from other and more important objects, to their completion. At the proper time, and on a suitable occasion, I shall be as prompt as another to take to task the Administration for any and all other of their misdoings.

There was one remark of the member from Pennsylvania made and dwelt upon with apparent complacency, so extraordinary in itself, (I was about to say, so atrocious, to my mind, in the only application which can possibly be given to it,) that I cannot permit it to pass unnoticed. In referring to the furniture and cultivation of the grounds in the use of the President, the member said, "the receiver was as bad as the—other man." Sir, we all know the words of the adage—"the receiver is as bad as the thief." And who is the receiver, and who the thief? From the days of Washington, through a long succession of illustrious men, every Presi-



dent of the United States, including the elder Adams, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, J. Q. Adams, Jackson, and the present incumbent, have received the benefit of a similar provision in their official station. The house, the furniture, the garden, and the cultivated grounds have been alike the enjoyment of each, and at public charge. It may be instructive to this committee to be informed of the grants of Congress for some of these objects, during the several periods of the respective administrations. I have now before me a statement, collated from official documents, of appropriations for the purchase of furniture for each Presidential term, after the removal of the Seat of Government to the Federal city.

By a law of the 2d of March, 1797, just previous to the commencement of the administration of the elder Adams, Congress made the following appropriation :

Proceeds of sale of old furniture, and so much in addition thereto, as the President may judge necessary, not exceeding \$14,000.

During the Administration of Mr. Jefferson, the appropriations amounted to \$29,000.

In that of Mr. Madison to \$28,000.

It was in this period that the house was sacked by the British upon their incursion into Washington during the war, and the furniture, which from the beginning, had cost the nation upwards of seventy thousand dollars, was wholly destroyed.

After the repair of the House, in the years 1817 and 1818, during the administration of Mr. Monroe, the records show appropriations for refurnishing it to the aggregate amount of \$50,000.

In the administration of Mr. John Q. Adams, the grants amounted to \$20,000.

In that of General Jackson to \$39,000 ; and

In that of Mr. Van Buren, they have been, to this time, \$20,000.

The statement from which I read gives the date of each law, and the precise appropriation under it.

Such, Mr. Chairman, are the sums—whether lavish or not, I shall not stop to consider—which, from time to time, have been voted by Congress ; and these are the “ receivers ” to whom the member refers—men who, for accepting the accommodations provided by law for the office which they sustained, are charged with “ robbing the Treasury and fleecing the People.” These are they of whom it is said “ the receiver is as bad as the thief ! ” The elder Adams, the dauntless assertor of American freedom ; Jefferson, the co-patriot of Adams, the draughtsman of the Declaration of Independence, the great apostle of liberty, the very chief of Democrats ; Madison, the champion of the Constitution, the patriot statesman and sage ; Monroe, the soldier of the Revolution, the brave defender of the Republic in the first war, the inflexible and uncompromising advocate of national honor, rights, and interests in the last ; these are they who received the appropriations, and to whom the adage is applied. Names deathless in fame, immortal in the history of their country’s renown ! My venerated colleague, too, the learned civilian the accomplished diplomatist, the incorruptible magistrate, he who on this floor is the most fearless and faithful of the servants of the people, together with the Hero of New Orleans, “ the greatest and the best,” and the more humble “ follower in the footsteps ”—they also are within the obloquy of the same reproach.

And who is the thief ? The Congress of the United States, the Representatives of the people, in succession, through a series of more than forty years. These are the men who, by making the appropriations, in the sentiment of the member from Pennsylvania, **PLUNDERED THE TREASURY AND ROBBED THEIR CONSTITUENTS !** Is there an individual within the sound of my voice whose cheek does not burn with indignation at the bare recital of the charge ? Where were the sleepless sentinels of the people’s rights, the dragon guardians of the public chests, when these spoilers robbed it of its treasure ? Was no arm raised for its protection ? Search the journals of either House of Congress, and neither voice nor vote is found against one of those appropriations. If they deserve the character now attempted to be given them, how happens it that in forty years there has been no resistance to their passage ? How happens it, indeed, that, in the last Congress, of which this Pennsylvanian, of more than Spartan virtue, was a member, no opposition was offered to grants precisely similar to those contained in the present bill ? They passed without objection then.

[MR. OGLE. No; a member near me says he objected.]

MR. LINCOLN. Who is the man? I heard of no dissentient. If any had the virtue, at that time, to think it wrong, he had not the courage to make it known. Where is the recorded vote at a call even for a division upon the question. Sir, the truth is, such grants were thought proper upon the original consideration of them, and subsequently they have been of course and usual. If the people will no longer approve them, Congress must refer back, by legislation, to their occasion; dispose of the "White House;" send the furniture to auction; and leave the President to provide for himself his place of residence and means of accommodations. When this shall appear to be the judgment of the people, I shall be found among the last to withstand their will.

There is another topic upon which the member has harped loud and long—the style and fashion of the articles which have been purchased under the appropriations. In my imperfectly reported remarks, to which the member so freely refers for a text to his folio annotations, with the reading of which, for hours, he has occupied the time of this committee, not a single article was particularly specified or justified by me. Wherefore, then, does he attempted to make me responsible for such as he has chosen to designate, and for the extravagance of which, upon the fidelity of his description only, he asks a sentence of condemnation? I did say, however, generally, I have already to-day repeated, and I now reiterate, that to a casual observer the furniture appears neither too rich nor too abundant for the size and magnificence of the mansion, nor too good for the use of the first representative officer of a free and sovereign people. But of this I make no matter of personal controversy with the member. I understand him now to say that he has never been at the house. How well, then, it may comport with a becoming modesty, or sense of justice even, to denounce unseen that which prudent and honorable men have sanctioned, I leave for others to consider. He condemns the articles as the exhibition of aristocratic pride and splendor. Well, sir, I defend not the purchase of these articles, but take my position behind the character of those by whose authority they were procured. I insist that whatever fault has been committed is with those who furnished the means of such extravagance—if extravagance there be—with the Representatives of the people, who, again and again, under every Administration, with a full knowledge of the manner in which the money would be expended, have voted the appropriations without restriction or qualification. I have shown that whatever reproach attaches to the procurement and use of such furniture has been incurred by the head of each successive Administration. If, indeed, the fashion of the House be a display of regal splendor, stern and sound Republicans have been betrayed into this foolish error.

Thomas Jefferson was, once accounted a plain and unpretending Democrat, and passed, in his day, for an unostentatious Chief Magistrate, and yet we have seen that the sum of \$39,000 was expended for furniture during the period of his Presidency; and thus, too, in addition to the \$14,000 previously granted to his immediate predecessor. The purity and Republican simplicity of Mr. Madison's life and manners have never, to this time, been questioned; yet to the \$13,000 before appropriated, \$28,000 more were added to the royal pageantry in the eight years of his Administration. Col. Monroe, too, was he a vainglorious aristocrat? He has the credit, in history, at least, of having resisted to blood, in the Revolutionary conflict, a Government of royal pride and arrogance, and by a life devoted to his country, contributed as largely as any other to the establishment and support of institutions of equal rights and political equality; yet, in his administration, a greater expenditure was made in re-furnishing the house, after the late war, than under all his predecessors. What say you, Mr. Chairman, of my venerable colleague? Is he not a good Whig in principal, and a plain Republican in manners? And yet he received what benefit resulted from the appropriation of \$20,000 during the four years of his Presidency, added to the large expenditure made by Col. Monroe. But think you my honorable colleague would have consented to this, with a consciousness that it was intended for mere empty display? or that, by doing it, in the language of the member, he was robbing the Treasury and fleecing the people? Sir, my colleague has no occasion to make professions of honesty or respect for the rights of the people, to entitle his course of official action to the



confidence due to eminent public services and distinguished private virtue. Of all men, he would be the last to indulge in matters of ostentation and vain show.

[Mr. OGLE. I deny that either Adams or Monroe ever had such trumpery as Van Buren.]

Mr. LINCOLN. And I undertake to say that, during the Presidency of Mr. Monroe, more "trumpery," as the member is pleased to term it, was carried into the Presidential mansion, than under every other Administration, to this time, put together.

Mr. Chairman, it is not my wish to enter at all into this subject. But upon the denial of the member now, I feel bound to refer the committee to the fact, apparent upon the bills, that many of the very articles which have been pointed out as most objectionable, were purchased from the appropriation of \$50,000 in the time of Mr. Monroe. In point of truth, they were procured by him, and for his own account, while Minister in France, and were afterwards taken for the Government, by appraisal, on his accession to the chair of State. Ay, sir, this famous golden plateau, and most of these gold spoons, and knives, and forks, and vases, which have so bewildered the imagination of the member, and shocked the simple virtue of his heart, were the purchase of the Republican Monroe! And in application to these even, there is a lesson of infancy, which may profitably be remembered, that "all is not gold which glitters;" for, if I am not greatly misinformed, the plateau, and spoons, and knives, and forks, are but silver gilded, and the golden vases but china painted!

But the monstrous extravagance of such things! exclaims the member. What is done with the vast amount of these appropriations? he inquires. Sir, I have not peeped into the windows of the palace, or moused through the kitchen or the garret, to see whether the people have got their money's worth in the purchase which have been made. This is not the province of the committee of which I am a member; nor, if it were, would I perform the service. Does it require, he asks, such large amounts for mere plain and necessary furniture? No, sir, no; nor is it to be supposed that, by the large appropriations which have been made from time to time, Congress could intend the purchases should be so restricted. Simple, indeed, must he be (I had almost said a fool) who could imagine that, in the authority of an outlay of fifty thousand dollars, as in the case of Mr. Monroe, or of twenty thousand dollars, as in the administration of Mr. Adams, or thirty thousand, as in that of General Jackson, or twenty thousand for Mr. Van Buren, the ornamental was to be excluded. The schedules which the member exhibits may well excite his wonder. I know nothing of their fidelity. But the carpets and the curtains, the candlesticks and the candelabras, the ottomans and the divans, the tables, mahogany and marble, the tabourets (tabby cats, in the member's nomenclature) were all doubtless in the estimates. They may be names of startling sound to an unpractised ear, but they are *things* of use and no uncommon appearance in many a private parlor.

One thing, above all, seems to have created amazement with the member. He has found, in his manly and dignified research, an invoice of "cups and saucers," which were in the closets of Mr. Adams; and he cries out with astonishment at their number. What the need, he demands, of so many dozens of cups and saucers? Sir, I will tell the member. They were wanted for a purpose which he could never conjecture—the hospitable entertainment of visitors and friends. They were a means, among others, of offering the courtesies of place to those who called upon the President as the Representative of the people. They were used for the refreshment of the nation's guests. To such as witnessed the noble hospitality of my honorable colleague, in his high official station, it need not be told how entirely the accommodations of the house were made but mere appliances to his personal liberality. Sir, I advise the member to study better the manners of the past before he prescribes a rule of conduct for the future. The public residence of the President of the United States has been, and should ever continue, the seat of a generous hospitality; and representing as I do a free-hearted and liberal constituency, the incumbent in office, whoever he may be, shall never find in my vote an excuse for its neglect. If General Harrison shall succeed to the occupancy of the White House, as I trust he may, and which I shall labor as zealously as any one

to effect, my speech shall furnish no argument for leaving him there with only the worn out and cast-off furniture of his predecessor.

Mr. Chairman, I thank the member that he has left us in no doubt of the cause of his grievous complaints in these matters. I understand him to say that he was one of those who joined in the notorious East Room clamor; and by reason of the imputed extravagance of my venerable colleague, in the purchase of a billiard table, some cues and chessmen, at the cost of a few dollars, assisted in displacing one Administration, which taxed the Treasury but twelve millions a year, to introduce a dynasty which now requires more than thrice-told that amount for its annual expenditure. If for such cause he would hurl from place one of the most pure and faithful patriots that ever served the country, there can be no surprise at the weapons he has chosen with which to assail the men now in power. The member once belonged to the school of these same political reformers, and much I fear, in the fault of his early lessons, gives less heed, at this time, to the alarming principles and flagrant misdoings of a vicious Administration, than personal attention to a microscopic search for minor defects in the boastful economy of its disbursements. Sir, I solemnly protest against these things being brought into the politics of the day. They can be made to have no just or proper bearing there. It may seem to us that the salary of the President is too high, and the house and its appendages too splendid and costly; but they were the appointments of wiser and better men than ourselves, in the purer days of the Republic, and they have been sustained and enjoyed as the measure of every Administration, and in turn by all parties. For myself, I am free to confess that, were they at this time original provisions, with present experience, I should be the advocate of neither. But while the salary continues and the house remains, I will not consent that the President shall hoard the one or live like a recluse and niggard in the other.

But one word more, Mr. Chairman, and I have done. If, in sustaining the appropriations to which exceptions have been taken, I differ in judgment from others, it is because I regard the original design of the Government in the arrangement which requires them, and not that I advocate extravagant grants, or have the slightest reference to the benefit of their recipient. Of the particular manner in which the money has been expended, I pretend to know nothing, and I have said nothing. With Mr. Van Buren personally, I have nought to do. Upon his temper and bearing, his habits and manner of living, in private, and with those of his family, whether at home or at the Court of Queen Victoria, the member may as freely descend as his taste shall prompt, or the patience of others bear, without reply or heed from me. To Mr. Van Buren politically, and to his Administration, I am opposed upon other, and, I trust, higher grounds than those which are taken in the speech of the member—upon the broad grounds of constitutional principles, national interests, and the people's rights; and I shall continue that opposition until it shall end in the restoration of the supremacy of law and representative government over Executive usurpation and power.

Mr. Chairman, for the indulgence of the committee in their kind attention to what I have had to say, I pray leave to return my sincere thanks. For detaining them, after the fatigues of a long sitting, to so late an hour in the evening, I owe them an humble apology.

### OGLE, THE FEDERAL SCULLION.

This individual was published by his own brother, Alexander Ogle, Jr., a few days since, as "*a liar, a scoundrel, and not worthy of truth.*"

The card, in which Mr. A. Ogle thus publicly "defined" the character of the author of the modern "federal omnibus of lies," was published in the Somerset Whig, and the publishers of that paper were prosecuted for a libel by the veritable Ogle himself. When the trial came on, the editors of the Whig proved that every word stated in the card was true; that Charles Ogle did write a renunciation of masonry, *forge* his brother's name to it, and publish it in a federal newspaper in Somerset, accompanied with a flattering eulogy upon his brother's character. The brother, justly incensed at this fraud upon him and upon the public, denounced him in the terms above quoted.

Such (says the Ohio Statesman, from which we obtain these facts,) is Charley Ogle, the leader and *factotum* of Harrisonism and 'coon skins!













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